

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for controlling subscriber access in a network capable of establishing connections with a plurality of domains, comprising:  
  
receiving a communication from a subscriber using a first communication network coupled to at least one other communication network, said communication optionally including a domain identifier associated with a domain on said at least one other communication network;  
  
determining whether said subscriber is authorized to access said domain based upon said domain identifier and a list of authorized domains for a virtual circuit used to receive said communication;  
  
authorizing subscriber access to said domain when said domain identifier is included in said list.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising terminating said communication when said domain identifier is not included in said list.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said communication comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein  
said PPP session comprises a tunneling session;  
said determining further comprises assigning a tunnel ID; and  
said PPP session is forwarded onto a tunnel associated with said tunnel ID when said  
subscriber is authorized to access said domain.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said tunneling session comprises an L2TP  
session.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said determining further comprises:  
issuing an authorized domain list request including a virtual circuit identifier;  
receiving an authorized domain list that includes authorized domains for said identifier;  
indicating said domain is unauthorized when said domain name is not in said domain list;  
indicating said domain is authorized when said domain name is in said domain list;  
issuing a tunnel ID request including said domain name when said domain name is  
authorized; and  
receiving a tunnel ID.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein  
said authorized domain list request is serviced by an AAA server; and  
an AAA server services said tunnel ID request.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a VPI/VCI identifier.
9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said determining further comprises:  
issuing a tunnel ID request including said domain name and a virtual circuit identifier; and  
receiving a tunnel ID.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein an AAA server services said tunnel ID request.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a VPI/VCI identifier.
12. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said determining further comprises:  
performing a table lookup based on a virtual circuit identifier to obtain an authorized domain  
list that includes authorized domains for said virtual circuit identifier;  
indicating said domain is unauthorized when said domain name is not in said authorized  
domain list;  
indicating said domain is authorized when said domain name is in said authorized domain  
list; and  
performing a table lookup based on said domain name to obtain a tunnel ID when said  
domain name is authorized.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a VPI/VCI identifier.
14. (Original) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method to control subscriber access in a network capable of establishing connections with a plurality of domains, the method comprising:  
receiving a communication from a subscriber using a first communication network coupled to at least one other communication network, said communication optionally including a domain identifier associated with a domain on said at least one other communication network;  
determining whether said subscriber is authorized to access said domain based upon said domain identifier and a list of authorized domains for a virtual circuit used to receive said communication;  
authorizing subscriber access to said domain when said domain identifier is included in said list.
15. (Original) The program storage device of claim 14, further comprising terminating said communication when said domain identifier is not included in said list.
16. (Original) The program storage device of claim 14 wherein said communication comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session.

17. (Original) The program storage device of claim 16 wherein
- said PPP session comprises a tunneling session;
  - said determining further comprises assigning a tunnel ID; and
  - said PPP session is forwarded onto a tunnel associated with said tunnel ID when said subscriber is authorized to access said domain.
18. (Original) The program storage device of claim 17 wherein said tunneling session comprises an L2TP session.
19. (Original) The program storage device of claim 18 wherein said determining further comprises:
- issuing an authorized domain list request including a virtual circuit identifier;
  - receiving an authorized domain list that includes authorized domains for said identifier;
  - indicating said domain is unauthorized when said domain name is not in said domain list;
  - indicating said domain is authorized when said domain name is in said domain list;
  - issuing a tunnel ID request including said domain name when said domain name is authorized; and
  - receiving a tunnel ID.
20. (Original) The program storage device of claim 19 wherein
- said authorized domain list request is serviced by an AAA server; and
  - an AAA server services said tunnel ID request.

21. (Original) The program storage device of claim 19 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a VPI/VCI identifier.
22. (Original) The program storage device of claim 18 wherein said determining further comprises:  
  
issuing a tunnel ID request including said domain name and a virtual circuit identifier; and  
  
receiving a tunnel ID.
23. (Original) The program storage device of claim 22 wherein an AAA server services said tunnel ID request.
24. (Original) The program storage device of claim 22 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a VPI/VCI identifier.
25. (Original) The program storage device of claim 18 wherein said determining further comprises:  
  
performing a table lookup based on a virtual circuit identifier to obtain an authorized domain  
  
list that includes authorized domains for said virtual circuit identifier;  
  
indicating said domain is unauthorized when said domain name is not in said authorized  
  
domain list;  
  
indicating said domain is authorized when said domain name is in said authorized domain  
  
list; and

performing a table lookup based on said domain name to obtain a tunnel ID when said domain name is authorized.

26. (Original) The program storage device of claim 25 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a VPI/VCI identifier.
27. (Original) An apparatus for controlling subscriber access in a network capable of establishing connections with a plurality of domains, the apparatus comprising:  
means for receiving a communication from a subscriber using a first communication network coupled to at least one other communication network, said communication optionally including a domain identifier associated with a domain on said at least one other communication network;  
means for determining whether said subscriber is authorized to access said domain based upon said domain identifier and a list of authorized domains for a virtual circuit used to receive said communication;  
means for authorizing subscriber access to said domain when said domain identifier is included in said list.
28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising means for terminating said communication when said domain identifier is not included in said list.
29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said communication comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein
- said PPP session comprises a tunneling session;
- said determining further comprises means for assigning a tunnel ID; and
- said PPP session is forwarded onto a tunnel associated with said tunnel ID when said
- subscriber is authorized to access said domain.
31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein said tunneling session comprises an L2TP session.
32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31 ~~29~~ wherein said determining further comprises:
- means for issuing an authorized domain list request including a virtual circuit identifier;
- means for receiving an authorized domain list that includes authorized domains for said
- identifier;
- means for indicating said domain is unauthorized when said domain name is not in said
- domain list;
- means for indicating said domain is authorized when said domain name is in said domain
- list;
- means for issuing a tunnel ID request including said domain name when said domain name
- is authorized; and
- means for receiving a tunnel ID.



33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein  
said authorized domain list request is serviced by an AAA server; and  
an AAA server services said tunnel ID request.
34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a  
VPI/VCI identifier.
35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said determining further comprises:  
means for issuing a tunnel ID request including said domain name and a virtual circuit  
identifier; and  
means for receiving a tunnel ID.
36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein an AAA server services said tunnel ID  
request.
37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a  
VPI/VCI identifier.
38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said determining further comprises:  
means for performing a table lookup based on a virtual circuit identifier to obtain an  
authorized domain list that includes authorized domains for said virtual circuit  
identifier;

means for indicating said domain is unauthorized when said domain name is not in said  
authorized domain list;

means for indicating said domain is authorized when said domain name is in said authorized  
domain list; and

means for performing a table lookup based on said domain name to obtain a tunnel ID when  
said domain name is authorized.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 38 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a  
VPI/VCI identifier.

40. (Original) An access server capable of forcing subscribers of a communications system to  
gain access exclusively to a domain network associated with a virtual circuit, said access  
server comprising:

an authorized domain list request generator capable of generating an authorized domain list  
request including a virtual circuit identifier associated with a virtual circuit used to  
accept a PPP session authentication request, said PPP session authentication request  
including a domain identifier;

an assessor capable of determining whether said domain identifier is in said domain list;

a tunnel TD request generator capable of generating a tunnel ID request including said  
domain identifier; and

an authorizer capable of granting users domain access based upon said authorized domain  
list.

41. (Original) The access server of claim 40, further comprising:
- a first receiving interface capable of accepting said PPP session authentication request;
  - a first forwarding interface capable of sending said authorized domain list request to an AAA server;
  - a second receiving interface capable of accepting a requested authorized domain list; a second forwarding interface capable of sending said tunnel ID request to an AAA server;
  - a third receiving interface capable of accepting a requested tunnel ID; and
  - a third forwarding interface capable of forwarding said PPP session on a tunneling session associated with said tunnel ID.
42. (Original) The access server of claim 40 wherein said tunneling session comprises an L2TP session.
43. (Original) The access server of claim 42 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI).
44. (Original) The access server of claim 43 wherein said first receiving interface comprises at least one access multiplexer, each access multiplexer having a plurality of inputs for receiving a service request, each of said inputs being associated with a particular subscriber virtual circuit.

45. (Original) The access server of claim 41 wherein said AAA server and said access server communicate using the Remote Authorization Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) protocol.
46. (Original) An access server capable of forcing subscribers of a communications system to gain access exclusively to a domain network associated with a virtual circuit, said access server comprising:
- a tunnel ID request generator capable of generating a tunnel ID request, said tunnel ID request including a virtual circuit identifier associated with a virtual circuit used to accept a PPP authentication request; and
- an authorizer capable of granting users domain access based upon a list of authorized domains for said virtual circuit.
47. (Original) The access server of claim 46, further comprising:
- a first receiving interface capable of accepting said PPP session authentication request, said PPP session authentication request including a domain identifier;
- a first forwarding interface capable of sending said tunnel ID request to an AAA server;
- a second receiving interface capable of accepting a requested tunnel ID; and
- a second forwarding interface capable of forwarding said PPP session on a tunneling session associated with said tunnel ID.
48. (Original) The access server of claim 47 wherein said tunneling session comprises an L2TP session.

49. (Original) The access server of claim 48 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI).
50. (Original) The access server of claim 46 wherein said first receiving interface comprises at least one access multiplexer, each access multiplexer having a plurality of inputs for receiving a service request, each of said inputs being associated with a particular subscriber virtual circuit.
51. (Original) The access server of claim 47 wherein said AAA server and said access server communicate using the Remote Authorization Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) protocol.
52. (Original) An access server capable of forcing subscribers of a communications system to gain access exclusively to a domain network associated with a virtual circuit, said access server comprising:
- a memory device capable of storing a domain list table and a tunnel ID table, said domain list table including a plurality of virtual circuit identifiers and associated domain identifiers, said tunnel ID table including a plurality of domain names and associated tunnel IDs;
  - an authorized domain list determiner capable of determining an authorized domain list based upon said domain list table and a domain identifier within a PPP authentication request, said PPP authentication request received on a virtual circuit having a virtual circuit identifier;
  - an assessor capable of determining whether said domain identifier is in said domain list;

a tunnel ID determiner capable of determining a tunnel ID based upon said tunnel ID table  
and said domain identifier; and  
an authorizer capable of granting subscribers domain access based upon said authorized  
domain list.

53. (Currently Amended) The access server of claim 52 ~~51~~, further comprising:  
a receiving interface capable of accepting said PPP session authentication request; and  
a forwarding interface capable of forwarding said PPP session on a tunneling session  
associated with said tunnel ID.
54. (Original) The access server of claim 53 wherein said tunneling session comprises an L2TP  
session.
55. (Original) The access server of claim 54 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a  
Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI).
56. (Original) The access server of claim 52 wherein said first receiving interface comprises at  
least one access multiplexer, each access multiplexer having a plurality of inputs for  
receiving a service request, each of said inputs being associated with a particular subscriber  
virtual circuit.
57. (New) A method for controlling subscriber access in a network capable of establishing  
connections with a plurality of domains, comprising:

receiving an L2TP session from a subscriber using a first communication network coupled to at least one other communication network, said L2TP session optionally including a domain identifier associated with a domain on said at least one other communication network;

determining whether said subscriber is authorized to access said domain based upon said domain identifier and a list of authorized domains for a virtual circuit used to receive said L2TP session, said determining comprising:

issuing an authorized domain list request including a virtual circuit identifier;

receiving an authorized domain list that includes authorized domains for said identifier;

indicating said domain is unauthorized when said domain name is not in said domain list;

indicating said domain is authorized when said domain name is in said domain list;

issuing a tunnel ID request including said domain name when said domain name is authorized;

receiving a tunnel ID; and

assigning said tunnel ID; and

authorizing subscriber access to said domain when said domain identifier is included in said list, wherein said L2TP session is forwarded onto a tunnel associated with said tunnel ID when said subscriber is authorized to access said domain.

58. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein

said authorized domain list request is serviced by an AAA server; and

an AAA server services said tunnel ID request.

59. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a VPI/VCI identifier.
60. (New) A method for controlling subscriber access in a network capable of establishing connections with a plurality of domains, comprising:
- receiving an L2TP session from a subscriber using a first communication network coupled to at least one other communication network, said L2TP session optionally including a domain identifier associated with a domain on said at least one other communication network;
- determining whether said subscriber is authorized to access said domain based upon said domain identifier and a list of authorized domains for a virtual circuit used to receive said L2TP session, said determining comprising:
- performing a table lookup based on a virtual circuit identifier to obtain an authorized domain list that includes authorized domains for said virtual circuit identifier;
- indicating said domain is unauthorized when said domain name is not in said authorized domain list;
- indicating said domain is authorized when said domain name is in said authorized domain list;
- performing a table lookup based on said domain name to obtain a tunnel ID when said domain name is authorized; and
- assigning said tunnel ID; and



authorizing subscriber access to said domain when said domain identifier is included in said list, wherein said L2TP session is forwarded onto a tunnel associated with said tunnel ID when said subscriber is authorized to access said domain.

61. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a VPI/VCI identifier.
62. (New) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method to control subscriber access in a network capable of establishing connections with a plurality of domains, the method comprising:

receiving an L2TP session from a subscriber using a first communication network coupled to at least one other communication network, said L2TP session optionally including a domain identifier associated with a domain on said at least one other communication network;

determining whether said subscriber is authorized to access said domain based upon said domain identifier and a list of authorized domains for a virtual circuit used to receive said L2TP session, said determining comprising:

issuing an authorized domain list request including a virtual circuit identifier;

receiving an authorized domain list that includes authorized domains for said identifier;

indicating said domain is unauthorized when said domain name is not in said domain list;

indicating said domain is authorized when said domain name is in said domain list;

issuing a tunnel ID request including said domain name when said domain name is  
authorized;  
receiving a tunnel ID; and  
assigning said tunnel ID; and  
authorizing subscriber access to said domain when said domain identifier is included in said  
list, wherein said L2TP session is forwarded onto a tunnel associated with said tunnel  
ID when said subscriber is authorized to access said domain.

63. (New) The method of claim 62 wherein  
said authorized domain list request is serviced by an AAA server; and  
an AAA server services said tunnel ID request.
64. (New) The method of claim 62 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a VPI/VCI  
identifier.
65. (New) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of  
instructions executable by the machine to perform a method to control subscriber access in a  
network capable of establishing connections with a plurality of domains, the method  
comprising:  
receiving an L2TP session from a subscriber using a first communication network coupled to  
at least one other communication network, said L2TP session optionally including a  
domain identifier associated with a domain on said at least one other communication  
network;

determining whether said subscriber is authorized to access said domain based upon said domain identifier and a list of authorized domains for a virtual circuit used to receive said L2TP session, said determining comprising:

- performing a table lookup based on a virtual circuit identifier to obtain an authorized domain list that includes authorized domains for said virtual circuit identifier;
- indicating said domain is unauthorized when said domain name is not in said authorized domain list;
- indicating said domain is authorized when said domain name is in said authorized domain list;
- performing a table lookup based on said domain name to obtain a tunnel ID when said domain name is authorized; and
- assigning said tunnel ID; and

authorizing subscriber access to said domain when said domain identifier is included in said list, wherein said L2TP session is forwarded onto a tunnel associated with said tunnel ID when said subscriber is authorized to access said domain.

66. (New) The method of claim 65 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a VPI/VCI identifier.
67. (New) An apparatus for controlling subscriber access in a network capable of establishing connections with a plurality of domains, comprising:
- means for receiving an L2TP session from a subscriber using a first communication network coupled to at least one other communication network, said L2TP session optionally

including a domain identifier associated with a domain on said at least one other communication network;

means for determining whether said subscriber is authorized to access said domain based upon said domain identifier and a list of authorized domains for a virtual circuit used to receive said L2TP session, said means for determining comprising:

means for issuing an authorized domain list request including a virtual circuit identifier;

means for receiving an authorized domain list that includes authorized domains for said identifier;

means for indicating said domain is unauthorized when said domain name is not in said domain list;

means for indicating said domain is authorized when said domain name is in said domain list;

means for issuing a tunnel ID request including said domain name when said domain name is authorized;

means for receiving a tunnel ID; and

means for assigning said tunnel ID; and

means for authorizing subscriber access to said domain when said domain identifier is included in said list, wherein said L2TP session is forwarded onto a tunnel associated with said tunnel ID when said subscriber is authorized to access said domain.

68. (New) The method of claim 67 wherein

said authorized domain list request is serviced by an AAA server; and

an AAA server services said tunnel ID request.

69. (New) The method of claim 67 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a VPI/VCI identifier.
70. (New) An apparatus for controlling subscriber access in a network capable of establishing connections with a plurality of domains, comprising:
- means for receiving an L2TP session from a subscriber using a first communication network coupled to at least one other communication network, said L2TP session optionally including a domain identifier associated with a domain on said at least one other communication network;
  - means for determining whether said subscriber is authorized to access said domain based upon said domain identifier and a list of authorized domains for a virtual circuit used to receive said L2TP session, said means for determining comprising:
    - means for performing a table lookup based on a virtual circuit identifier to obtain an authorized domain list that includes authorized domains for said virtual circuit identifier;
  - means for indicating said domain is unauthorized when said domain name is not in said authorized domain list;
  - means for indicating said domain is authorized when said domain name is in said authorized domain list;
  - means for performing a table lookup based on said domain name to obtain a tunnel ID when said domain name is authorized; and
  - assigning said tunnel ID; and

means for authorizing subscriber access to said domain when said domain identifier is included in said list, wherein said L2TP session is forwarded onto a tunnel associated with said tunnel ID when said subscriber is authorized to access said domain.

71. (New) The method of claim 70 wherein said virtual circuit identifier comprises a VPI/VCI identifier.